



3765

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN THE APPLICATION OF:

JAMES MARSHALL OATHOUT ET. AL.

CASE NO.: SS3060 US NA

APPLICATION NO.: 09/922,048

GROUP ART UNIT: 3765

FILED: AUGUST 3, 2001

EXAMINER: AMY B. VANATTA

FOR: PROCESS AND APPARATUS FOR INCREASING THE ISOTROPY IN
NONWOVEN FABRICS

H8p
10-3-3

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

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Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Sir:

By Office Action dated September 15, 2003, the above-referenced application has been made subject to a requirement to restrict. The Examiner has taken the position that claims 1-13 (Invention I) are drawn to a method for changing the orientation of fibers in a nonwoven web, classified in class 28, subclass 104. Claim 14 (Invention II) is said to be drawn to a jet strip classified in Class 28, subclass 104.

Applicant elects Invention I with traverse. The Examiner suggests that the apparatus can be used to hydroentangle a woven or knit material. That would not qualify as a materially different process from Invention I because both situations use needles of water to accomplish an end result.

Response to Election of Species Requirement

With Invention I elected above, the Examiner deems the following as patently distinct species:

- I. Figs. 2-2B.
- II. Figs. 3-4.
- III. Figs. 5-6.

Applicant elects Group III with claims 2-7 readable thereon.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that the foregoing is a complete response to the subject Office Action. If any matters remain for resolution, please contact the undersigned.

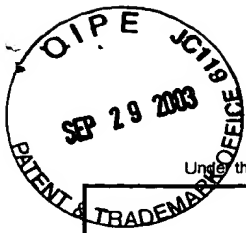
Respectfully submitted,



FREDERICK D. STRICKLAND
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Dated: September 25, 2003

FDS:fgl



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